

Fourth Annual Long-Term Looks at "The Future"



More than 300 individuals participated in the fourth annual Long-Term Stewardship Workshop July 30 through August 2, 2001, in Grand Junction, Colorado, to share ideas and discuss issues associated with planning for long-term stewardship. Workshop participants represented local, state, federal, and tribal governments; contractors; stakeholder groups; regulatory agencies; private industry; academia; and Hungary.

Presentations on planning in general and lessons learned from other sites and agencies were followed by question-and-answer sessions to generate discussion. The presentations addressed the importance and timing of long-term stewardship planning, who should be involved in planning, and the elements of successful planning.

Through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters Office of Long-Term Stewardship, the DOE Idaho Operations Office, and the DOE Grand Junction Office (GJO), the workshop took on a different focus from past years. In small breakout sessions, participant groups applied the presented information and the DOE draft guidance to the development of a long-term stewardship technical plan outline for fictitious sites. The interactive exchange resulted in valuable feedback for long-term stewardship managers.

Art Kleinrath, DOE-GJO Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance (LTSM) Program Manager, presented DOE Office of Long-Term Stewardship Director David Geiser with a summary of the workshop breakout session results. "I couldn't be more pleased with the outcome of the workshop," said Geiser. "When you have this many people gathered together all focusing on the same topic of interest, it is really important to take full advantage of the situation and get as much out of it as possible."

The Long-Term Stewardship Workshop offered many opportunities for participation in breakout sessions and interactive discussion groups to share lessons learned and to ask questions.

Comments on the DOE draft guidance document centered around six major themes. Numerous other topics were suggested as additions to the guidance. The results of the breakout sessions and the summary of comments are available on the Internet at www.gjo.doe.gov/programs/ltsm/general/events/01worksh/breakout.html. The breakout session discussions will hopefully prove helpful to sites that are preparing their own long-term stewardship plans.

Other highlights of the workshop include a western barbeque on the nearby scenic Colorado National Monument and a luncheon featuring keynote speakers Trent Schafer, Monticello, Utah, City Administrator, and Jim Fiore, DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Closure. Schafer was closely involved in the uranium mill tailings Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanup project in Monticello. He praised DOE-GJO on its work with the City of Monticello and Site Specific Advisory Board to address the needs



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and interests of the local citizens, not only during the cleanup phase but also in negotiating a land transfer that was beneficial to all parties.

Fiore talked about stewardship planning, decision making, and communication—key factors, he felt, in any successful environmental management activity. He discussed how similar sites could rightly receive completely different cleanups and, therefore, require a completely different approach to stewardship. "Looking at the different types of sites, and their stewardship requirements, leads us back again to the purpose of this workshop," said Fiore. "We clearly need to *plan* to ensure our stewardship activities will meet each need." He also stressed the importance of leaving records that will be meaningful and helpful to our descendants.

Beverly Cook, former DOE Manager of the Idaho Operations Office, and Gerald Boyd, Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOE Office of Science and Technology, were special guest speakers. Cook commented on the value of having input from agencies and entities outside DOE because the issues of long-term stewardship involve a variety of interests. Boyd informed the participants that the change in administration would most likely bring a subsequent reorganization of the Office of Long-Term Stewardship. However, he felt that the function of long-term stewardship was more important than where it resides and he urged agreement within DOE on the principles, policies, and funding of long-term stewardship.

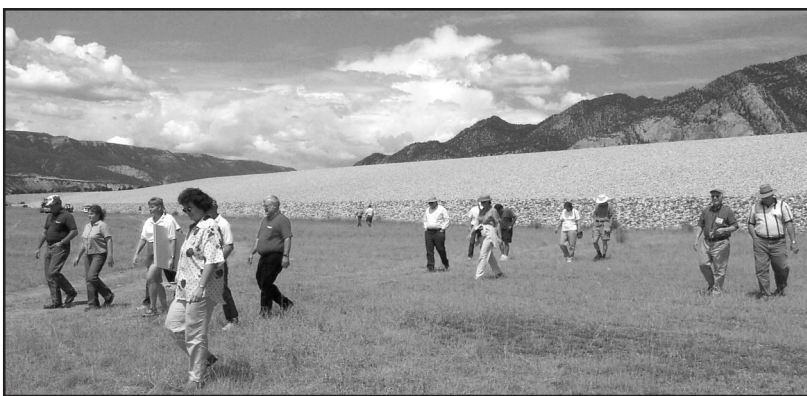
On Thursday, August 2, an optional field trip to the Grand Junction and Rifle Disposal Cells in Colorado was offered. Along the tour, participants viewed some of the more notable properties in Grand Junction that were remediated during the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project and learned some interesting history from tour guide, John Elmer, MACTEC Environmental Restoration Services Project Manager. The timing of the tour allowed the participants to see the Grand Junction Disposal Cell in operation accepting contaminated materials from the temporary

storage facility in Grand Junction. Most of the participants had never

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The ladybug signs on the tables signify a specific breakout session during which participants formulated a long-term stewardship plan for a fictional disposal site, taking into consideration specific characteristics of the site.



How large is a uranium mill tailings disposal cell? Workshop attendees gained first-hand knowledge with a field trip to the Rifle Disposal Site near Rifle, Colorado. The disposal cell occupies 71 acres and contains 4,967,451 dry tons of contaminated material.

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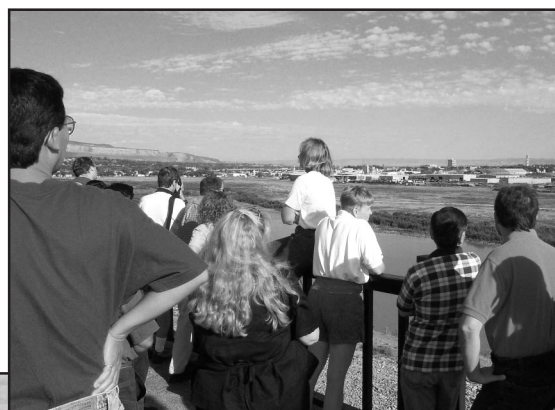
seen a closed repository and were overwhelmed at the magnitude of the Rifle Disposal Cell.

With this year’s workshop deemed a success, organizers have turned their focus to next year’s event. The location and date for the 2002 event will be posted on the LTSM Program Internet website at www.gjo.doe.gov/programs/ltsm.

Through the establishment of a conference steering committee, DOE–GJO hopes to capture a more national perspective on stewardship. Donna Bergman-Tabbert, Manager, DOE–GJO, chairs the committee; Art Kleinrath, DOE–GJO, is the Executive Director, and Audrey Berry, DOE–GJO Public Affairs Specialist, is the Coordinator.

The members of the committee are Chris Clayton, DOE Headquarters; Deborah Griswold, DOE Albuquerque Operations Office; Susan Heston, DOE Chicago Operations Office; Larry McEwen, DOE Oakland Operations Office; Patty Natoni, DOE Idaho Operations Office; Ralph Skinner, DOE Oak Ridge Operations Office; and Sue Smiley, DOE Ohio Field Office. Other goals are to provide additional opportunities for networking and personal communication, as well as maintain the event as an open forum for discussing and resolving issues of long-term stewardship.

For more information about the Long-Term Stewardship Workshop or the LTSM Program, contact Art Kleinrath at (970) 248–6037.❖



An overlook location gave field trip participants an opportunity to view a completed remediation project at the former Climax uranium-ore processing millsite in Grand Junction, Colorado. This mill processed uranium ore for 19 years. A portion of the site is now a public park.